Development of AW ACS by India

171Q. KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) what progress has been made in the development of AWACS type aircraft, the money spent so far and how much more time it would take;

(b) whether any progress has been made on developing the rotordome; and

(c) what is the Government's assess ment about the Iraqi claim that it has development its own AWACS type aircr aft which has already been test flown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRO-DUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Presently DRDO is engaged in generating requisite database and infrastructure for development of AEW Technology. There is no ongoing INDIAN AWACS Project.

(b) Competence building for installa tion of structural rotordome in HS 748 aircraft is in progress.

(c) No detailed information on the subject is available; however as per Jane's Defence Weekly, Iraq is reported to have modified one of the aircraft for limited AEW role.

U.S. ban on hitech device to India

* 1711. SHRI B SATYANARAYAN REDDY; Will the'Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bush Ad-ministration (US) has decided to ban the sale of hitech device to India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is the reaction of the Government of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRO DUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THB MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI D.L. BAITHA): (a) Yes, Sir, The supply of a, hitech device known as Combined Accie-ration Vibration and Climatic Test System (CAVCTS) which was ordered by us for design and development of tactical missiles has been withheld by US administration.

(b) This equipment is used for testing missile sub-systems and components under various combined vibration levels and temperature conditions. It has been brought to the notice of the US Administration that an export licence was given earlier and extended.

Indo-US Joint Naval exercises

' 1712. KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN: Will the Minister of DEFENCM be pleased to state;

(a) whether the US Authorities propos ed joint naval exercises of Indian and US Navy during talks with the Defence Minister on his visit to that country; it so what was hjs reaction;

(b)- whether plans for greater cooperation between Navies of the two countries were discussed; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) what is US's reaction to Iadia's desire for technological cooperation about under water technology and what is the possibility of cooperation in that sphere?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir. Specific requests, if and when received, will be duly considered on merits, and prevailing circumstances,

(b) The discussions were of a general nature^ No specific decisions were arriv ed at.

(c) Exploratory discussions were held regarding cooperation in under-watef technology.